

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3259
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION US BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4807

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, NL
SUBJECT: POLICE COMMISSIONER SAYS AMSTERDAM NO LONGER WORLD CENTER
FOR DRUG TRAFFIC

1. POLICE COMMISSIONER G.J. TOORENAAR, CHIEF OF THE 25-MAN
NARCOTICS BRIGADE IN AMSTERDAM, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE
DAILY NEWSPAPER "ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" ON AUGUST 25, THAT AMSTER-
DAM IS NO LONGER THE WORLD CENTER FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING. HE
EXPLAINED THAT "SINCE THE EXPULSION IN NOVEMBER 1976 OF SOME
1,200 ILLEGAL CHINESE, THE TRADE IN HEROIN HAS LARGELY DIS-
APPEARED. HOWEVER, THE MARKET FOR HEROIN USERS REMAINS."

2. TOORENAAR NOTED A SHIFT IN THE TRADE PATTERN, STATING
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THAT THE PRICE OF HEROIN HAD STABILIZED IN THE LAST NINE
MONTHS AT 300 GULDERS PER GRAM. "WEST GERMANS NO LONGER
COME TO AMSTERDAM TO BUY HEROIN BECAUSE THE PRICE IN THEIR
OWN COUNTRY IS MUCH LOWER". ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSIONER,
HEROIN TRADE HAS NOW SHIFTED TO GERMANY (BERLIN, WIESBADEN),
ENGLAND (LONDON) AND SWEDEN AND DENMARK.

3. AMONG THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE LED TO DISCOURAGING HEROIN DEALERS FROM OPERATING IN THE NETHERLANDS, IS THE FACT THAT THE MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM FOUR TO TWELVE YEARS, ACCORDING TO TOORENAAR.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY AND DEA REPRESENTATIVES OBSERVE THAT TOORENAAR'S COMMENTS WERE SLANTED TOWARD PUBLIC CONSUMPTION; E.E., THAT AMSTERDAM POLICE FINALLY HAVE THE PROBLEM WELL IN HAND. IN ACTUALLY, CURRENT OBSERVATIONS BY THIS POST AS WELL AS DATA OBTAINED FROM OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN EUROPE (GERMANY, BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG AND FINLAND) REVEAL THAT HEROIN MOVEMENTS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD AMSTERDAM AS THE FINAL MARKET. ALTHOUGH TOORENAAR CLAIMS THAT AMSTERDAM IS NO LONGER THE "WORLD CENTER" FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE CITY CONTINUES TO BE THE FOCAL POINT FOR EUROPE, IF NOT THE WORLD.

5. FURTHER EVIDENT TO THE COGNOSCENTI IS THE FALLACY OF TOORENAAR'S COMMENT THAT THE PRICE OF HEROIN HAS STABILIZED AT 300 GUILDER PER GRAM. SINCE THE PRICE OF HFL. 300 IS CONSIDERABLY BELOW THAT OF A YEAR AGO, SIMPLE ECONOMICS INDICATES THAT THE SUPPLY HAS INCREASED, FORCING DOWN THE RETAIL PRICE ON THE STREET.

JOSEPH

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